

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **CITY ANNOUNCES \$60,000 EPA URBAN WATERS GRANT AWARDED TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY**

INDIANAPOLIS – The City of Indianapolis' Office of Sustainability announced today it recently received a \$60,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Urban Waters Small Grant Program to be used for improving water quality and community revitalization. Indianapolis is one of 46 applicants in 32 states out of nearly 600 that applied for this program that will receive this funding. This is the third grant the Office of Sustainability received from the EPA since its inception in October 2008.

The local project, called Water, Wisdom and Wealth, focuses on lower Fall Creek and involves many community partners including Butler University's Center for Urban Ecology, Empower Results LLC, Mapleton Fall Creek Community Development Corporation and Fall Creek Gardens. Work is scheduled to begin late this year and continue through 2014. The grant specifically will be used in the Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood in the following areas:

- Hands-on training of hundreds of community volunteers on how to install no-mow native plant areas and rain gardens;
- Developing and implementing a water currency program that provides several opportunities for pollution source reduction through individual action/behavior change;
- Promoting the design and installation of rain gardens and native planting areas through targeted mailings and door hangers;
- Holding educational workshops for professionals and the public about water quality issues and solutions.

"By improving and beautifying this area, we hope to encourage more urban living and revitalize these neighborhoods for the benefit of residents now and in the future," said John Hazlett, Director of the Office of Sustainability.

EPA's Urban Waters program funding supports communities' efforts to access, improve, and benefit from their urban waters and the surrounding land. Urban waters include canals, rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, estuaries, bays, and oceans in urbanized areas. The grants awarded by the EPA recently ranged from \$30,000 to \$60,000 for projects across the country, including a number of underserved communities totaling 2.7 million dollars.

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